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Campaign Letter Announcing US Congress Run 1978 detailing congressional accomplishments

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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MICKEY LELAND CONGRESS

Major Legislative Issues Authored By Mickey Leland

65th Legislature, 1977

1. House Bill 10, Generic Substitution Bill
permitting the use of lower-cost prescription drug products.
2. House Bill 11, Drug Price Advertising Bill
permitting the advertising of prescription drug price poster
3. House Bill 12, Regulating Drug Samples and Detailmen to regulate
the flow of drug samples and provide for the registration of drug
manufacturer salesmen.
4. House Bill 13, Generic Substitution in Vendor Drug Program per-
mitting the use of lower cost drugs in the welfare drug program.
5. House Bill 14, State Aid to Primary Teaching Hospitals allowing
the state to reimburse public hospitals (Ben Taub, Jeff Davis,
and Hermann in Houston) for teaching costs.
6. House Bill 15, State Right to Work Commission
establishing a public works program in Texas.
7. House Bill 18, Railroad Safety Act
requiring the Railroad Commission to implement and enforce rail
safety standards.
8. House Bill 19, Corrections Ombudsman
establishing a system for inmates of the Texas Department of
Corrections to submit and have investigated complaints against
the prison system.
9. House Bill 20, City Council Districts
requiring single-member city council districts throughout Texas.
10. House Bill 21, Optometry Act
permitting optometrists to use diagnostic drugs.
11. House Bill 48, Payroll Deductions
permitting state employee organizations to deduct dues from state
pay warrants.

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Paid for and authorized by Leland for Congress, 1501 Elgin, Suite A, Houston, Honorable Andrew Jefferson, Chairperson, Arlington McRae, Treasurer
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12. House Bill 102, Educationally Disadvantaged establishing minority recruitment programs at state public universities.
13. House Bill 112, Medical Experimentation prohibiting drug and medical experiments on inmates.
14. House Bill 977, EEO Offices in Political Subdivisions requires EEO Offices and affirmative action programs in all cities, counties, school districts, etc.
15. House Concurrent Resolution 55, Inviting President Jimmy Carter to come to Texas to explain the economic impact of his energy proposals on Texas.

Proposals being Drafted For Introduction:

1. Establishing an investigating commission to look at the high cost of health care.
2. Four amendments to my Health Maintenance Organization Act to make it more effective.
3. AFDC Employment and Education Act of Texas to help AFDC mothers receive jobs and education.
4. Public school assistance for teenage parents and pregnant teenagers to keep them from dropping out.

Appropriations Bill Amendments Authored:

1. Increased AFDC grants
2. Increased appropriations for Alternate Care Programs.
3. Increase from 2 to 3 welfare prescriptions per month.
4. Increase appropriations for T.S.U.
5. Keep T.S.U. independent
6. Two riders encouraging the state to contract with minority businesses.
7. Increase the number of parole officers
8. Expansions of TRIMS in Houston.
9. Increase appropriations for foster care and day care.
10. To purchase land for an urban park in near north Houston.

II. Labor Law Reform

1. I would support Senate Bill 1885 and H.R. 8410.
2. I believe that Common Situs picketing is a bargaining tool that should be available to a craft union pressing a dispute on a job. To do otherwise has the effect of giving a project manager the option of deferring work under dispute by shifting resources to other parts of the job. Common Situs would give construction workers the same rights that industrial workers have.
3. With respect to Section 14-B of the Labor-Management Relations Act, I would support legislation which inserts "Agency Shop" provisions to cover situations where a plant exceeds a minimum level of representation.

4. YES.

III. Prevailing Wages

I would support measures that would vigorously enforce prevailing wage rate laws. Some relief might be vigorous payroll inspection by federal funding agencies.

- IV. I would support minimum wage legislation endorsed by the AFL-CIO to establish a floor on interstate commerce based on the average hourly earning in manufacturing. The parity may be at 53% or higher.

V. Maritime Cargo

1. I favor the proposition that all coastwise maritime trade be carried on American flag ships. First, American flag ships would provide safe and reliable work places for American seamen. Secondly, a larger American coastal fleet would afford us a reserve fleet of strategic significance.
2. Any law that is only 12% effective is a farce. The law should be amended to close all loopholes.
3. American-owned ships should not be allowed to escape American safety inspections and standards by registering under a foreign flag. There should be a law which "repatriates" these ships when they enter U.S. waters and subjects them to all standards required of American flag ships.
4. America should have more cargo ships.

- VI. 1. Humphrey-Hawkins should be a top priority for this country if it is to overcome the chronic unemployment problems of the 70's. Provisions to target unemployment no lower than 3% within four years and the right of all adult Americans, able, willing and seeking to work, to have a job at fair pay should be the goal for the balance of this decade.

All actions of the government in the fiscal, monetary and foreign policy areas should be keyed to accomplishing a full employment economy.

2. I would support free, fair trade as relates to import/export. This position is flexible with respect to the national needs of America's trading partners but with sufficient regulation to prevent dumping of cheap, low quality foreign goods. Highly protectionist regulations would not be possible in a highly interdependent global economy.
3. Increased government spending on worthwhile national priorities would generate new jobs. Priorities such as rebuilding the nation's railroad beds, rebuilding the infrastructure of the nation's older cities, restoring our natural environment (harbors, lakes, waterways). We could also generate jobs by trading finished industrial goods with energy exporting countries.

The revitalization of the nation's housing construction industry would also be a goal that would generate millions of jobs. Phasing in of a shorter work week with no loss of annual income would be a solution.

4. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development should "pump-up" housing production programs with particular emphasis given to
 - (a) Providing front-end financing for the building industry.
 - (b) Providing housing which is within the reach of the masses of American workers.
 - (c) Permitting construction of federally assisted housing in areas of minority concentration.
5. Several approaches could be taken to the problem:
 - (a) The FED could loosen the money supply by lowering the interest rate. This would cause demand for goods and services to go up and plant hours would go up. As demand started approaching plant capacity, slight inflationary pressures would result.
 - (b) The FED could designate variable interest rates for various uses such as funds for mortgages, funds for commercial loans, funds for industrial expansion, etc.
6. Obviously, there are no simple solutions. Each solution has the potential for generating other problems. Some potential solutions include:
 - (a) The development of trading relations with the newest oil exporting country--Mexico. Mexico's oil and gas could be traded with the U.S. for other goods which have given Mexico a large negative balance of payments.
 - (b) Investments abroad which reduce the growth of our domestic economy could be reduced by taxing multinational companies for profits earned abroad with those investments. The rate of taxation would in effect determine the flow of dollars abroad.

- (c) Goods from abroad are cheaper due to the depressed wage levels in those countries and the absence of environmental consideration in their manufacturing processes. The only way to make U.S. goods competitive in the domestic economy is to put a tariff on imports. The tariff should be based on average manufacturing wage differentials and a factor to account for the environmental cost of producing U.S. goods.

VII. Illegal Aliens

1. The U.S. should do everything it can to prevent persons from entering this country illegally. Persons who are already here illegally should be handled according to present laws but treated humanely.
2. I support President Carter's proposal on illegal aliens. His proposal to give amnesty to persons who have been in this country since before 1970 and have not been in any trouble is consistent with my notion of giving a person credit for being a productive resident. Most of us are U.S. citizens by accident of where we were born; we really haven't earned it.
3. I would be in favor of making it a violation of federal law for an employer to hire illegal aliens provided that
 - (a) No employer groups were excepted, and
 - (b) Any screening procedures would not depend on visual observation for its operation and would apply to every job applicant without exception.

VIII. Welfare Reform

1. The more jobs which can be provided in the private sector, the better. This can be accomplished by increased government spending for goods and services as well as by lowering the prime interest rate. However, there will be a residual unused labor force which should have the opportunity to work at a government provided job if the person is able and qualified for the job.
2. Any employee in public service jobs should be paid the prevailing wage rate in that job. If employed in private industry not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the wage rate should be at least the minimum wage.

IX. Energy Consensus Questions

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No.
4. Undecided.
5. Yes.

6. Yes.

7. Undecided. ?

8. Undecided. ? *No*

9. Yes. ? *No*

X. Occupational Safety and Health Administration

I support the purpose of OSHA. I believe it can be made more effective by implementing the "Common Sense Priority" program announced by Secretary Marshall.

XI. Campaign Financing

1. I believe that the cost of running a congressional or Senate race has taken working people out of the realm of the old truism "anyone can be president" and has made it possible only for the wealthy. Therefore, based on some equity standard, a candidate for congress or the Senate should receive assistance just as presidential candidates did in 1976.
2. Yes. Such legislation is the only protection available to safeguard the election process from being bought and paid for by big business.

XII. Public Broadcasting

1. Yes.
2. One solution would be to require commercial networks to meet their public service requirements by producing equivalent amounts of educational programs for public broadcasting consumption. Another solution would be to provide government support to domestic educational institutions to produce such programming.

XIII. U.S. Foreign Policy and Human Rights

1. I share Ambassador Gardner's statement as it relates to trade and foreign policy.

XIV. Import Controls on Foreign Steel

1. The congress should assist in the foreign marketing of goods produced by distressed American industry. We should also stop exporting "high-technology" processes and equipment which eventually mean less jobs at home.
2. To establish a system or protective tariffs to be used when it can be shown that deliberate "dumping" is occurring.
3. In addition to number 1 above, the U.S. government could eliminate tax advantages to U.S. companies operating abroad and impose unfavorable trade sanctions against countries which encourage our job loss.

XV. Federal Employees

1. I think federal employees are made second class citizens by being covered under the Hatch Act. I think federal employees should be able to run for office and to support any candidate for political office.
2. The U.S. Postal Service needs to come back under the scrutiny of the government. Postal service will always be a public business. Much of the mail could be reduced by imposing higher postage on business mail.
3. Benefits to retired military personnel should be at par with the rest of the population, except for service-related medical care to the veteran.